

Presentation to the Camberwell Community Council on 1st. April 2014
By a Deputation of Camberwell Grove Residents

To put Camberwell Grove in context

It is a mixed residential road at the heart of the Camberwell Grove Conservation Area with around one thousand residents. It contains nearly 400 properties. These include privately owned flats and houses, council and housing association flats, privately rented flats, commercial premises, a church and a day nursery.

It has developed into a major rat run for traffic which should rightfully be using the main roads. Official figures show CG having 12,340 vehicles per day compared with the local main road, Grove Lane to Dog Kennel Hill which only has about 5,000 more.

It is also part of Cycle Route 23. Even more cyclists are expected when route CS5 opens through Camberwell.

Because of the intensity and speed of traffic, the road is dangerous for both pedestrians and cyclists

Traffic calming is inadequate and ineffective.

It consists of a few gentle, widespread humps which are ridden over at speed, causing unacceptable noise and shaking all the bordering properties. The 20 mph speed limit is ignored. The long straight hill encourages vehicles and cyclists to speed downwards towards Camberwell. The road is narrow in parts so that:

Lorries mount the pavement to prevent total traffic jams.

Cyclists ride on the pavement to bypass hold ups.

There are no safe crossing points.

At the busiest times of day, very many parents and children walk along and cross the road to Lyndhurst Primary and Nursery Schools, Dog Kennel Primary and Nursery Schools and Children's Centre, and Camberwell Grove Early Years Centre.

Many other pedestrians cross en route to Denmark Hill station and bus stops in Grove Lane. Older and disabled pedestrians have particular difficulty in crossing the road because of the fast moving traffic. Pavement ramps are needed for wheel chairs and buggies.

Crossing Camberwell Grove at the top is seriously hazardous, especially at school run times with no proper view of oncoming traffic swerving round the corner from Grove Hill Road.

The junction with Camberwell Church Street is wide and difficult to cross because of turning traffic.

The only controlled crossing point is at the McNeil Road junction. This is a temporary arrangement and was put in with the introduction of traffic lights at the railway bridge. The 'green man' appears on request for only about 5 seconds! More than 100 parents and children cross here morning and evening with no school crossing warden. Many cross from the Lyndhurst Estate and nearby roads on their way to Lyndhurst School.

Others need to cross McNeil Road which is a particular hazard with traffic coming from three directions and no view of traffic lights in Camberwell Grove.

Contd

In summary,

Camberwell Grove is not an A road; Camberwell Grove is not a B road; Camberwell Grove is a normal residential road. But it is a major Southwark rat run, with constant traffic all throughout the day. This affects residents, pedestrians and cyclists not only in Camberwell Grove but in many other surrounding roads.

It should be a quiet road, a calm road allowing safe passage for children going to school and nursery, for cyclists and pedestrians. Most residential roads in Southwark which had heavy traffic have been dealt with. Camberwell Grove has been left behind.

We now therefore ask for action from Southwark Council to

introduce effective traffic calming

reduce rat running traffic and

restore the road to a safe and pleasant place to walk or cycle

In other words, improve the quality of life for both the residents and the many users of Camberwell Grove.

Finally

extra traffic calming on its own, is not enough

rat runs and cycle routes are not compatible

We ask the Camberwell Community Council to support us.